

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning page 3, line 29 and ending on page 4, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

In yet another aspect of the present invention, a method provides data content between a first network device and one or more other network devices. The method includes providing a communications protocol to manage data content exchange between the first network device and the one or more other network devices, providing document type definition extensions to the communications protocol, wherein the document type definition extensions define a hierarchical data content structure for the data content and metadata corresponding to the hierarchical data content structure, and transmitting data content between the first network device and the one or more other network devices according to the communication protocol and the document type definition extensions to the communications protocol. The method can include configuring the hierarchical data content structure into a plurality of channels. The method can include configuring each channel within the plurality of channels into one or more content sub-channels, wherein each channel provides data content of a related subject-matter and each content sub-channel within a given channel segments the data content within the given channel according to more specific subject-matter than the subject-matter of the given channel. The metadata can define attributes associated with each channel and content sub-channel within the hierarchical data content structure. The method can include associating a first data content with a first channel and a first content sub-channel within the first channel. The first data content is associated with the first channel and the first content sub-channel according to a subject-matter of the first data content, the specific subject-matter of the first channel and the more specific subject-matter of the first content sub-channel. The communications protocol can comprise an Information and Content Exchange protocol. The Information and Content Exchange protocol includes document type definitions and the document type definition extensions provide extensions to the document type definitions of the Information and Content Exchange protocol. The document type definition extensions are extensible markup language (XML)-based.

Please replace the paragraph on page 9, lines 15-28 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 4 illustrates a preferred protocol according to the present invention. The preferred protocol includes one or more applications 200, an ICE DTD extensions 210, an ICE protocol 220, and a network layer 230. The applications 200 preferably include one or more data content distribution applications which enable the exchange of data content between two network devices. The ICE protocol 220 preferably provides the communications protocol to manage the exchange of data content between two network devices, for example between the content server 10 and the PC 20. The ICE DTD extensions 210 preferably provide extensions to the DTDs within the ICE protocol 220 to define the hierarchical data content structure for the data content and the metadata corresponding to the hierarchical data content structure. The one or more data content distribution applications 200 preferably provide data content according to the hierarchical data content structure. The ICE protocol 220 is also coupled to the network layer 230 for generating necessary communications with another network device involved in the data content exchange. The network layer 230 represents a supported protocol stack used in the data content exchange process.